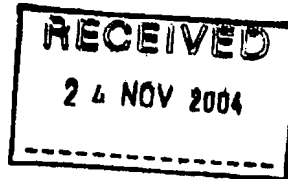




10/583811

AP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 22 JUN 2006

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**The Patent Office  
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**Your Reference:** 303594GB/PRS/CAB/DG  
**Application No:** GB0329706.6

22 November 2004

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)**

I enclose two copies of my search report and a copy of the citations.

**Plurality of invention**

I consider that your application relates to more than one invention as follows:

- (i) An online gaming system and method essentially comprising at least one state engine for controlling the game, and at least one presentation engine for controlling an output of the game presented to users, wherein the state engine allows players to play the game and the presentation engine allows at least one user to affect the output presented to one or more spectators of the game (as defined in claims 1-12),
- (ii) A wireless terminal for playing an online game comprising a user interface for inputting/outputting information to a user, at least one state engine for controlling the game, at least one presentation engine for controlling the output presented to the user, and an interface for transferring information across the gaming network (as defined in claims 13-15), and
- (iii) An online gaming system comprising at least one state engine for controlling the game in accordance with rules, and at least one presentation engine for controlling an output of the game presented to users, wherein the game engine allows players to play the game and is arranged to vary the rules in response to spectator input indicating support for a particular player.

My search report relates to the first invention only. If you want any of the other inventions searched, you should file a separate Patents Form 9/77 for each invention. Please note in

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<sup>1</sup>Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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this respect however that inventions (ii) and (iii) would appear to be anticipated by certain ones of the documents listed in my search report.

**Other search results**

If you have applied to another patent office for a patent for this invention you will be receiving from them the results of their search. If you decide to proceed with the present application you are asked to provide me with a copy of any such official search report; or to email identifying details of the cited documents (including any category assigned in the report) to the email address above.

**Cut-off date** This request applies to search reports that you have received before the date when you send a response to our first examination report under section 18(3) or section 18(4); if you make no response to an initial section 18(4) report the cut-off date is two months after the date of that report. Tell us about a search report sooner rather than later if that would allow it to be considered during our first examination.

**Exceptions** You do not have to supply details of a search report that (1) shows a nil response, or (2) has been published by WIPO or EPO, or (3) you have already supplied to us on a previous GB application.

**Publication**

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **17 May 2005**. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

**Withdrawal/amendment**

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** – after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 17 May 2005 please mark your letter prominently:

**"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT"**.

Yours faithfully

Mr Brendan Donohoe  
Examiner



Application No: GB0329706.6

Examiner: Mr Brendan Donohoe

Claims searched: 1-12

Date of search: 19 November 2004

## Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1-12	US2003/0220143 A1 (SHTEYN) - See whole document.
X	1-12	US 2003/0038805 A1 (WONG) - See especially para's 28, 32-37, 44, 57, 81-85, 104 & 114.
X	1-8 & 12	US 2002/0183115 A1 (TAKAHASHI) - See especially para's 46, 47, 70, 102-114, 130-137, 148, 151 & 157.
X	1-4, 6-8, 12	JP2003290557 A (KONAMI) - See the WPI English abstract Accession No. 2003-773435, and the description at para's 21, 28-31 & 40.
X	1-4, 6-8, 12	JP 2003117248 A (NAMCO) - See the WPI English abstract accession No. 2003-368236, and the description at para's 38, 46, 50-62 & 113-121.

### Categories:

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

### Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC<sup>W</sup> :

A6H

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC<sup>07</sup>

A63F; G06F

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report

WPI, EPODOC, PAJ